

# Field Management Division



## **FIELD MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES**

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United States Department of Agriculture

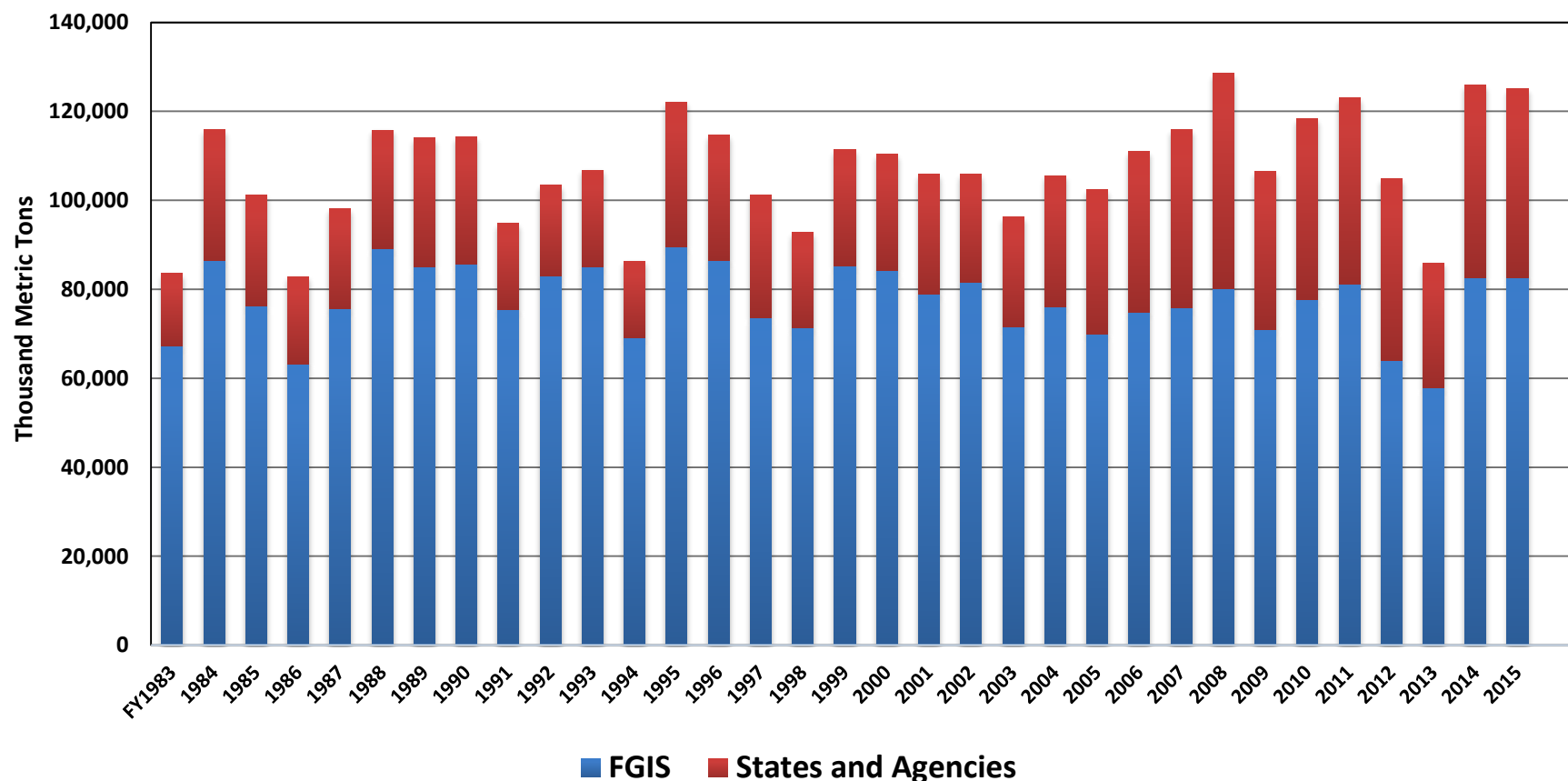
# Field Management Initiatives



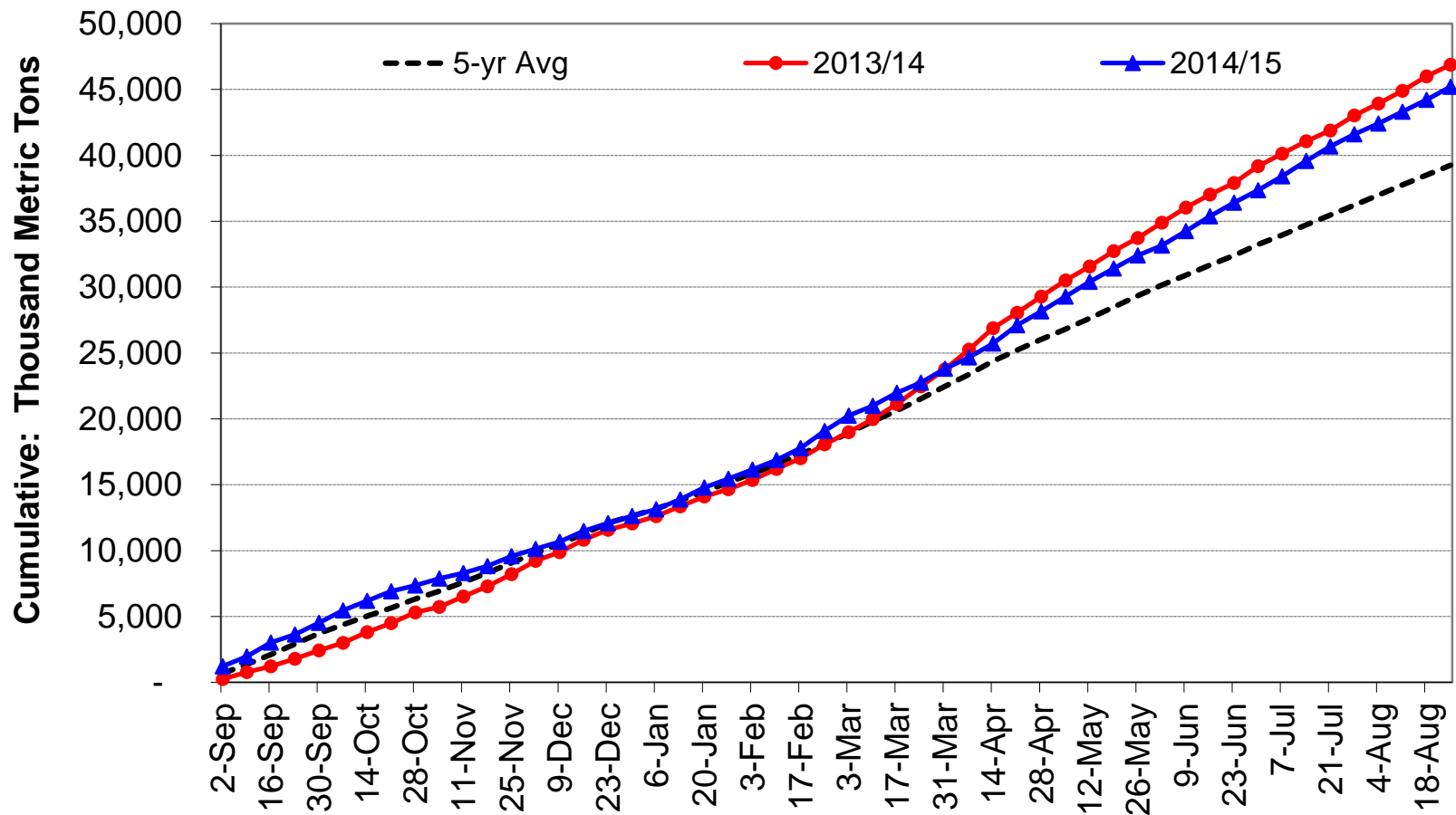
- Overview - Export Inspections and Tonnage
- Licensing
- Standards Under Review
- 580 Fee Rule
- Service in Texas
- New Lake Charles, LA Elevator
- Staffing Initiatives



# Export Inspections

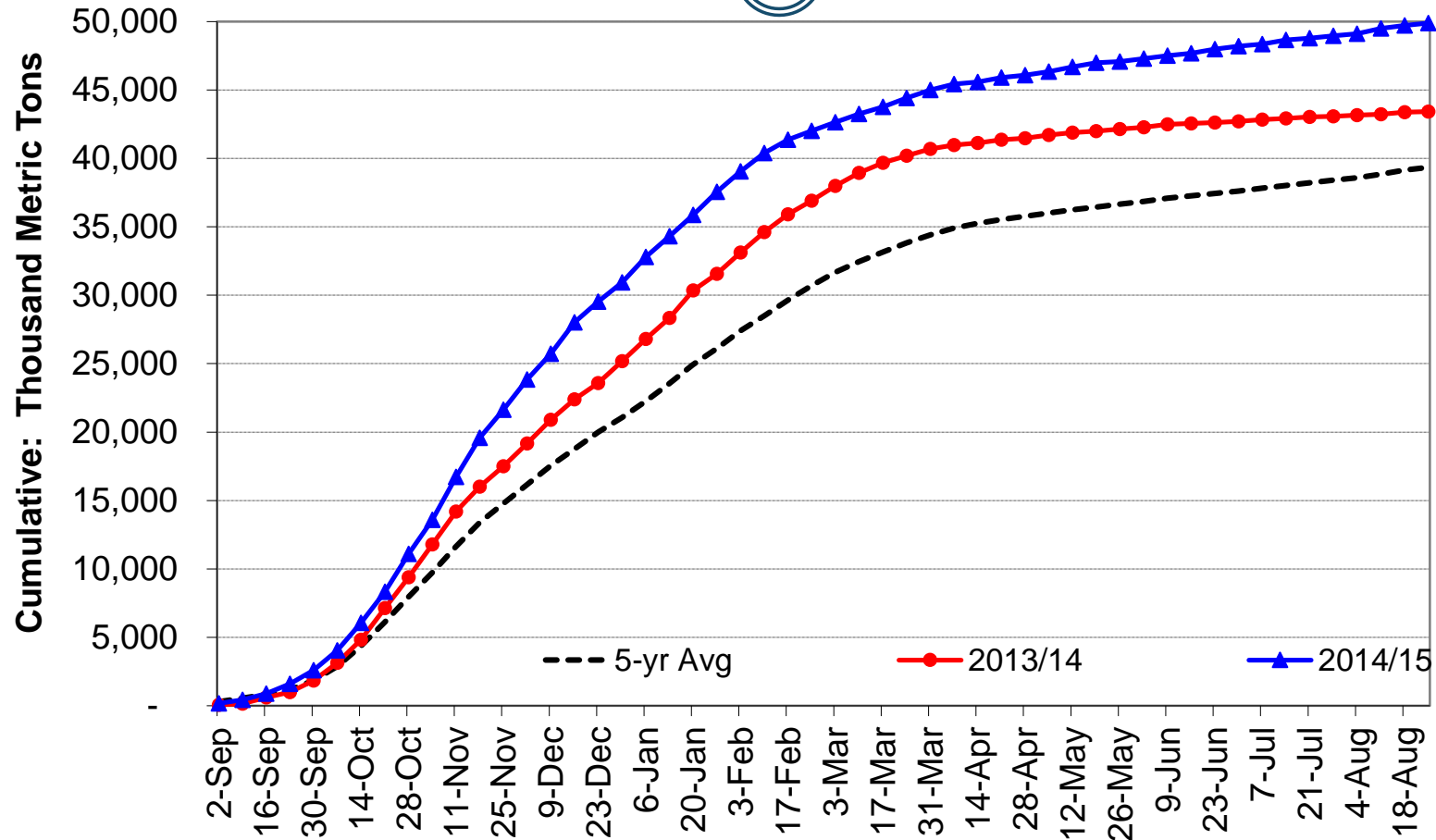


# Export Corn : FGIS, States & Agencies

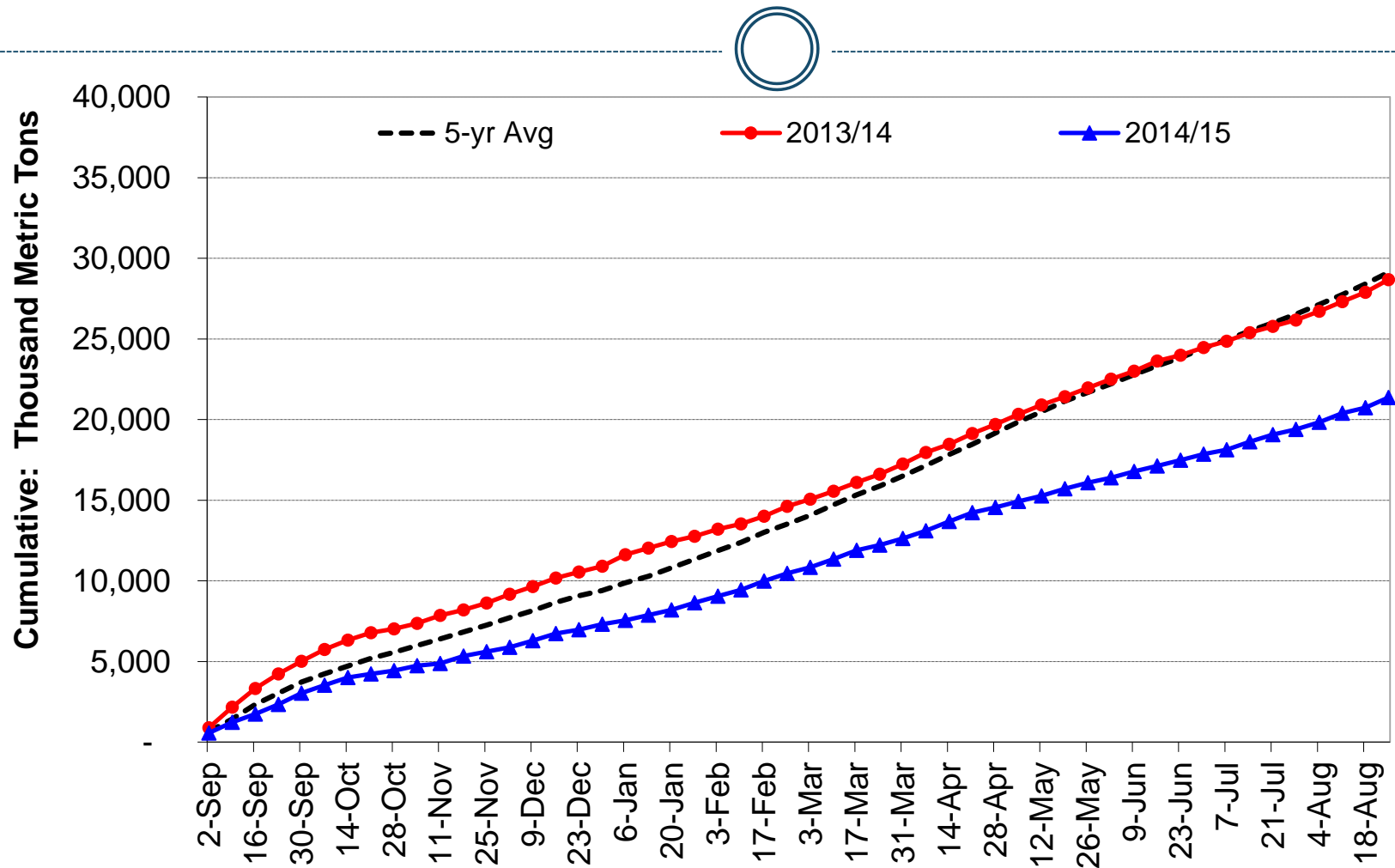


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Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting, October 2015

# Export Soybeans : FGIS, States & Agencies

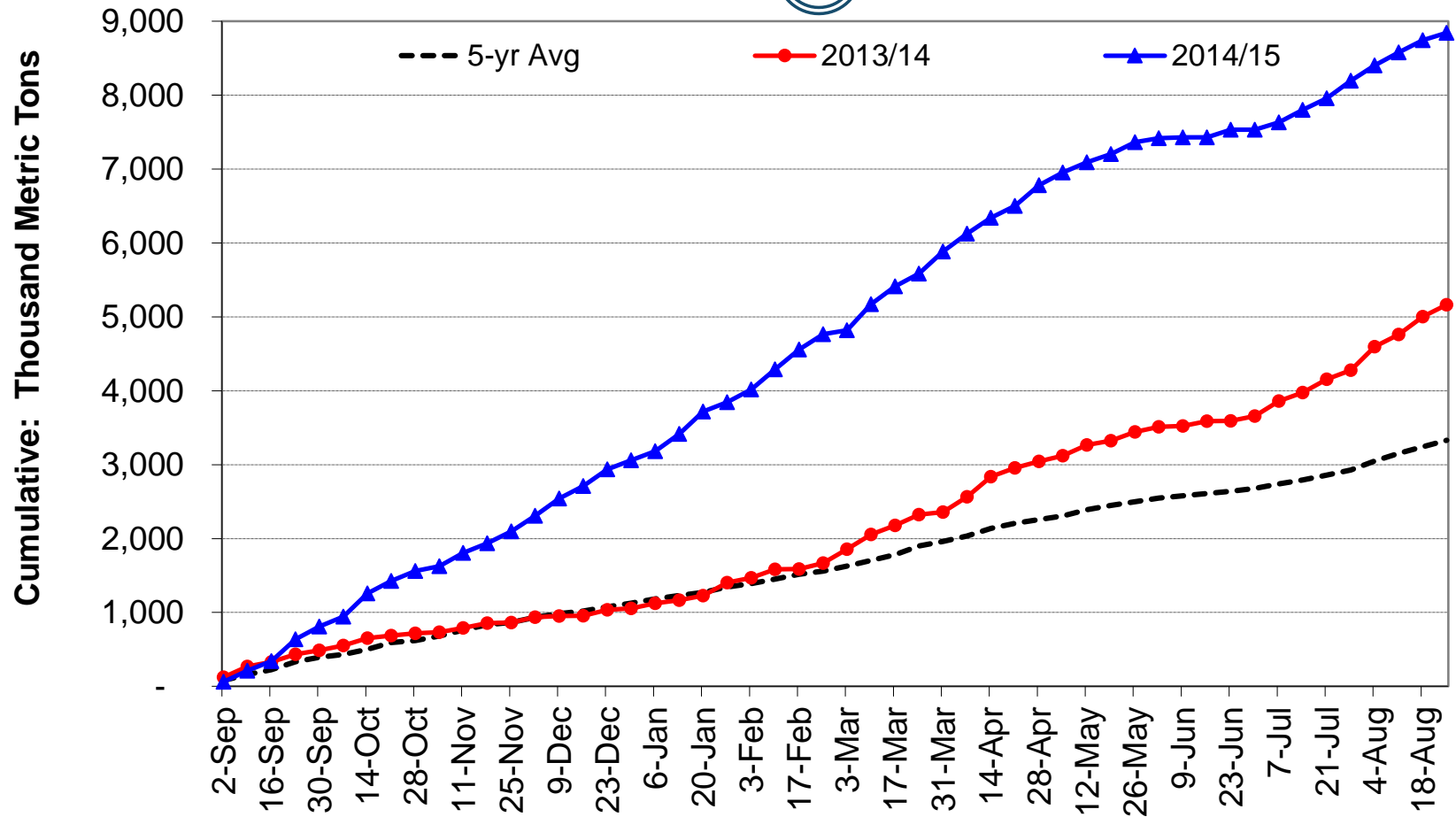


# Export Wheat : FGIS, States & Agencies



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Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting, October 2015

# Export: Sorghum-FGIS, States & Agencies



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Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting, October 2015

# Licensing Program



- Tenant of “Gold Standard” system
- Rigorous testing requirements to become licensed or authorized to perform work on behalf of Secretary
- Practical grading and written exams
- Do you know the definition of Corn?
  - *Grain that consists of 50 percent or more of whole kernels of shelled dent corn and/or shelled flint corn (Zea mays L.) and may contain not more than 10.0 percent of other grains for which standards have been established under the United States Grain Standards Act.*





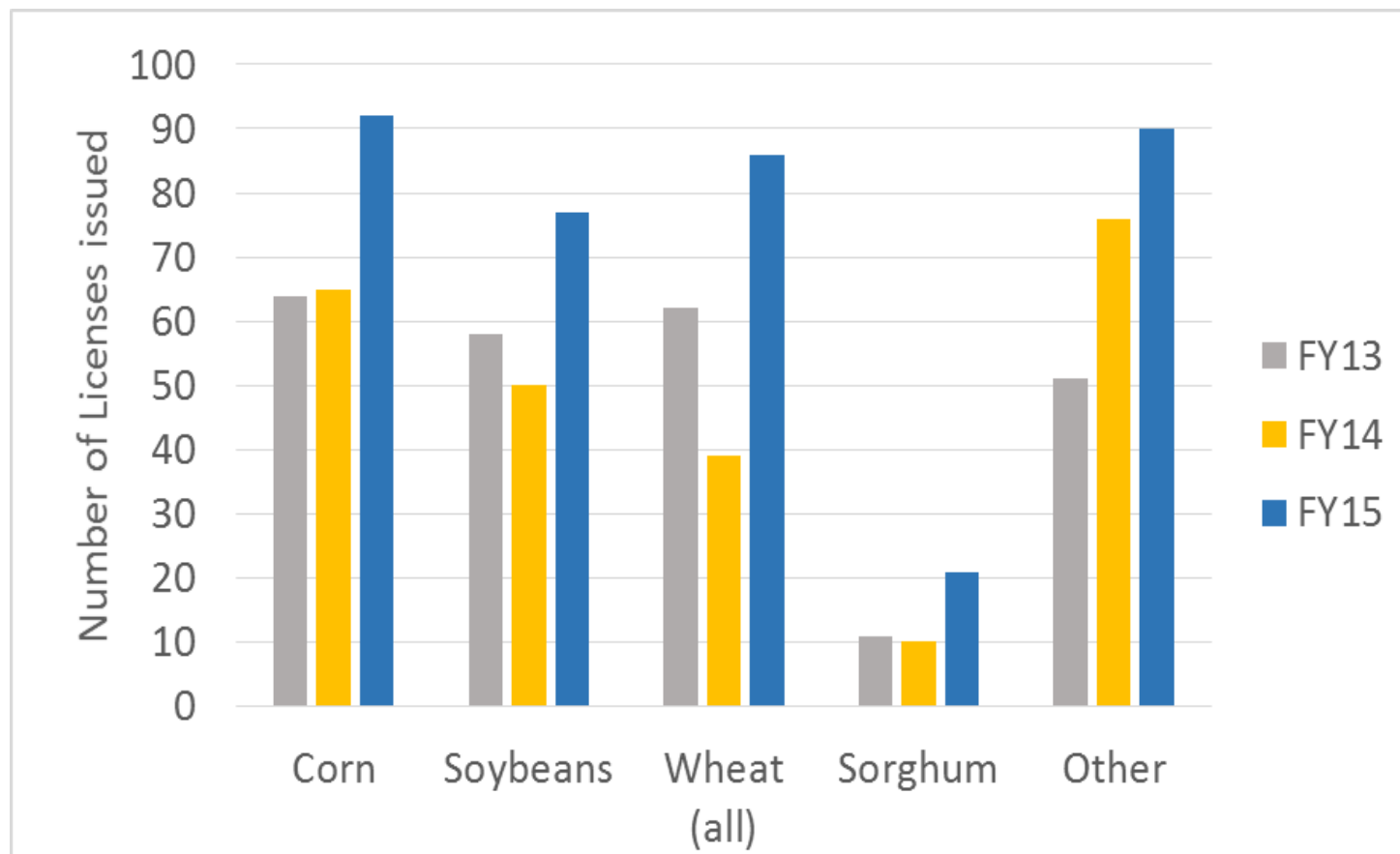
# Licensing Program



- Last changed in 2000
  - Passing score; "Limited" wheat license; Rice license changes; Other minor revisions
- New Licensing Handbook under development
  - Modernize licensing program for FGISonline
  - Align Official Agency licensing with FGIS employee licensing
- Impact of centralization on licensing; impact of alignment; opportunity for improvement

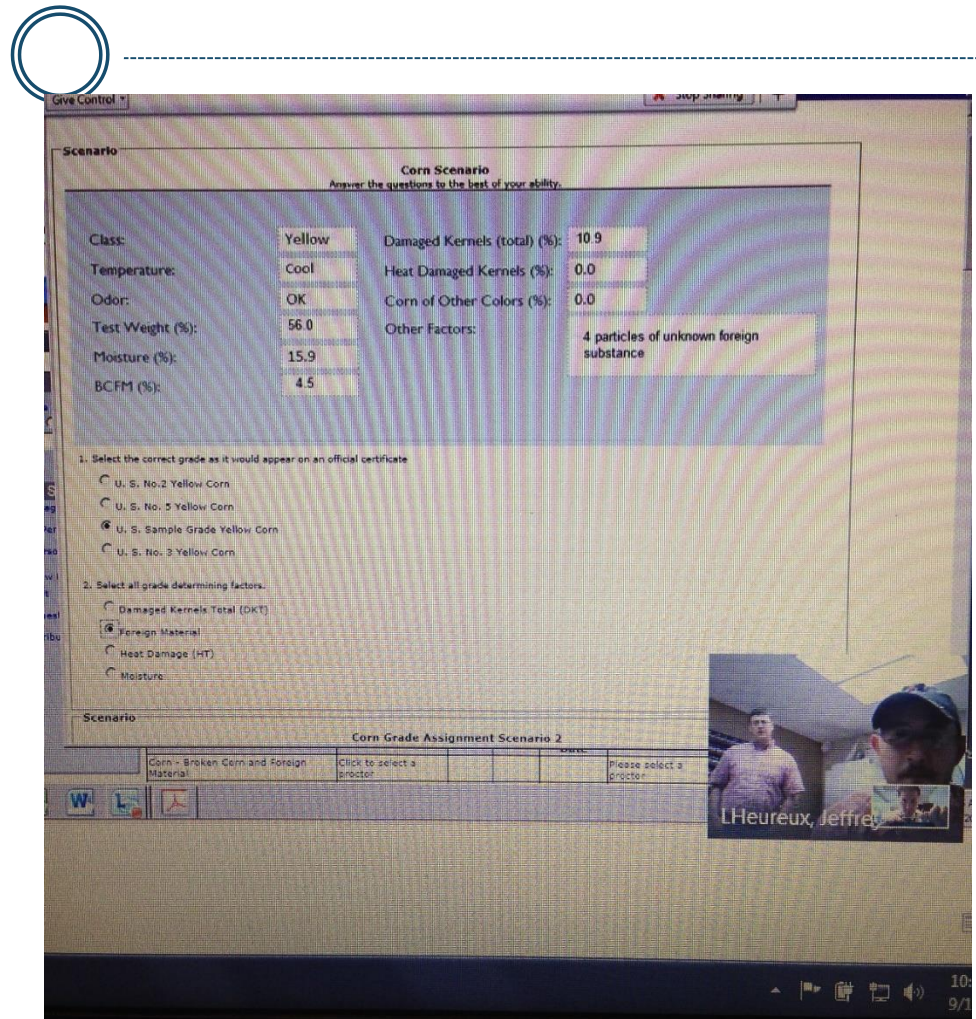


# Commodity Licenses Issued, FY13-FY15



# Remote Proctoring of Licensing Exams

- Reduced travel costs for FGIS and OSPs
- Reduced labor costs – one QAS or ACG could proctor multiple exams



# Remote Proctoring Trials in FY15



- There were 6 trials of video / remote proctoring
  - 5 used Microsoft Lync
  - 1 used Adobe Connect
- Results of the Trials:
  - 3 full licenses (2 corn, 1 soybeans) were earned
  - 1 was a partial – written portion completed
  - 1 was canceled by DIOO (Lync malfunction)
  - 1 was canceled by the Official Agency



# Remote Proctoring of Licensing Exams



## Conclusions

- Lync has more capabilities, but we were not able to extend the use of this program to OSPs.
- Adobe Connect can be extended to OSPs, but requires working through some initial setup and will require more testing.
- Pilot project should be continued in FY16 using Adobe Connect.



# Standards Under Review



- FGIS drafted six “Requests for Information” for the Federal Register for the following commodities:
  - Flaxseed
  - Mixed Grain
  - Oats
  - Rye
  - Sunflower Seed
  - Triticale
- The Barley Standard is now moving forward.



# US Standards for Barley



- Requested by industry
- Published the Notice in *Federal Register* July 25, 2014 proposing barley standards amendments
- Comment period closed Sept 23, 2014
- Comments under review
- Final Rule to follow pending stakeholder comments
- Effective date one year after Final Rule publication



# Commodity Inspection Fees



- Fees for inspection of graded commodities (not rice)
- Fees for processed commodity analytical services
- Revenue must cover obligations--2013 OIG audit
- The existing fee schedule does not generate sufficient revenue to cover program costs.
- Administrative Directive: 3-6 months of RE





# Commodity Inspection Fees



- Harmonize fees for grain and commodities on same or similar testing services
- Fee schedule: delete tests no longer offered; include tests added since last fee review
- 5 % increase in first year
- 4 % increases in out years through 2020
- Reduce obligations by reducing headcount through attrition due to retirement and moving personnel to other revenue producing positions



# Commodity Inspection Fees



## Future Year Projections: Commodity Program (Million Dollars)\*

	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$2.67</b>	<b>\$2.78</b>	<b>\$2.88</b>	<b>\$2.99</b>	<b>\$3.10</b>	<b>\$3.22</b>
<b>Obligations</b>	<b>\$2.95</b>	<b>\$2.84</b>	<b>\$2.94</b>	<b>\$3.04</b>	<b>\$3.14</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>
<b>Gain/ (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$0.28)</b>	<b>(\$0.06)</b>	<b>(\$0.06)</b>	<b>(\$0.05)</b>	<b>(\$0.04)</b>	<b>(\$0.03)</b>
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>\$0.93</b>	<b>\$0.87</b>	<b>\$0.81</b>	<b>\$0.76</b>	<b>\$0.72</b>	<b>\$0.70</b>

\*Figures may not sum due to rounding.



# Commodity Inspection Fees



- Proposed Rule docket approved for legal sufficiency by the USDA-Office of the General Counsel
- Proposed Rule now under Departmental review
- 30-day comment period; review comments; draft a Notice of Final Rulemaking; 30 day effective date



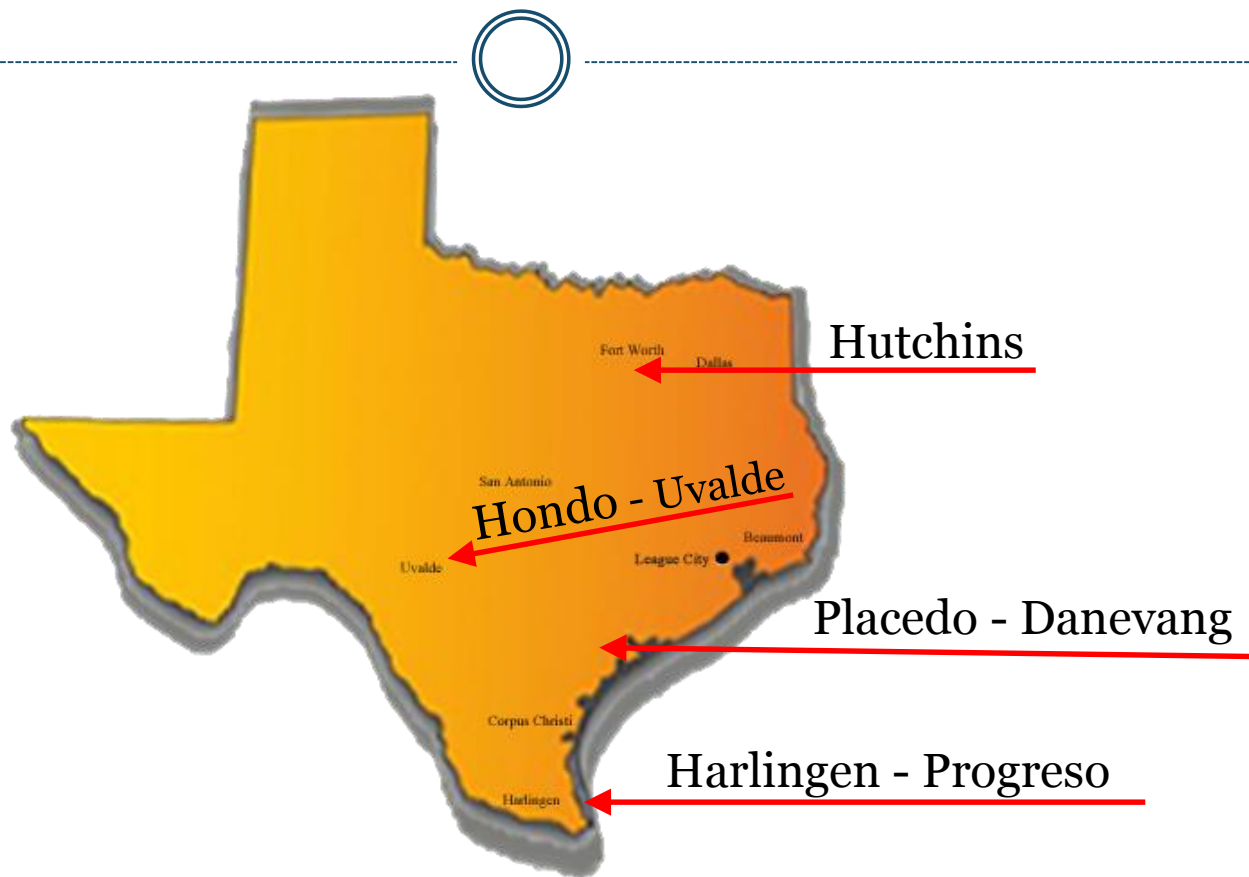
# Requests for Information



- Services currently offered or needed to facilitate the marketing of grain and related products
- Grains, oilseeds, rice, pulses, related products
- Follow-up to 2007 ANPR: Co-products of Ethanol Production (a.k.a. DDG's)
- 90-day comment period
- Docket submitted for clearance – under Departmental review



# Service in Texas



## League City Field Office



# South Texas Rail and Truck Inspections

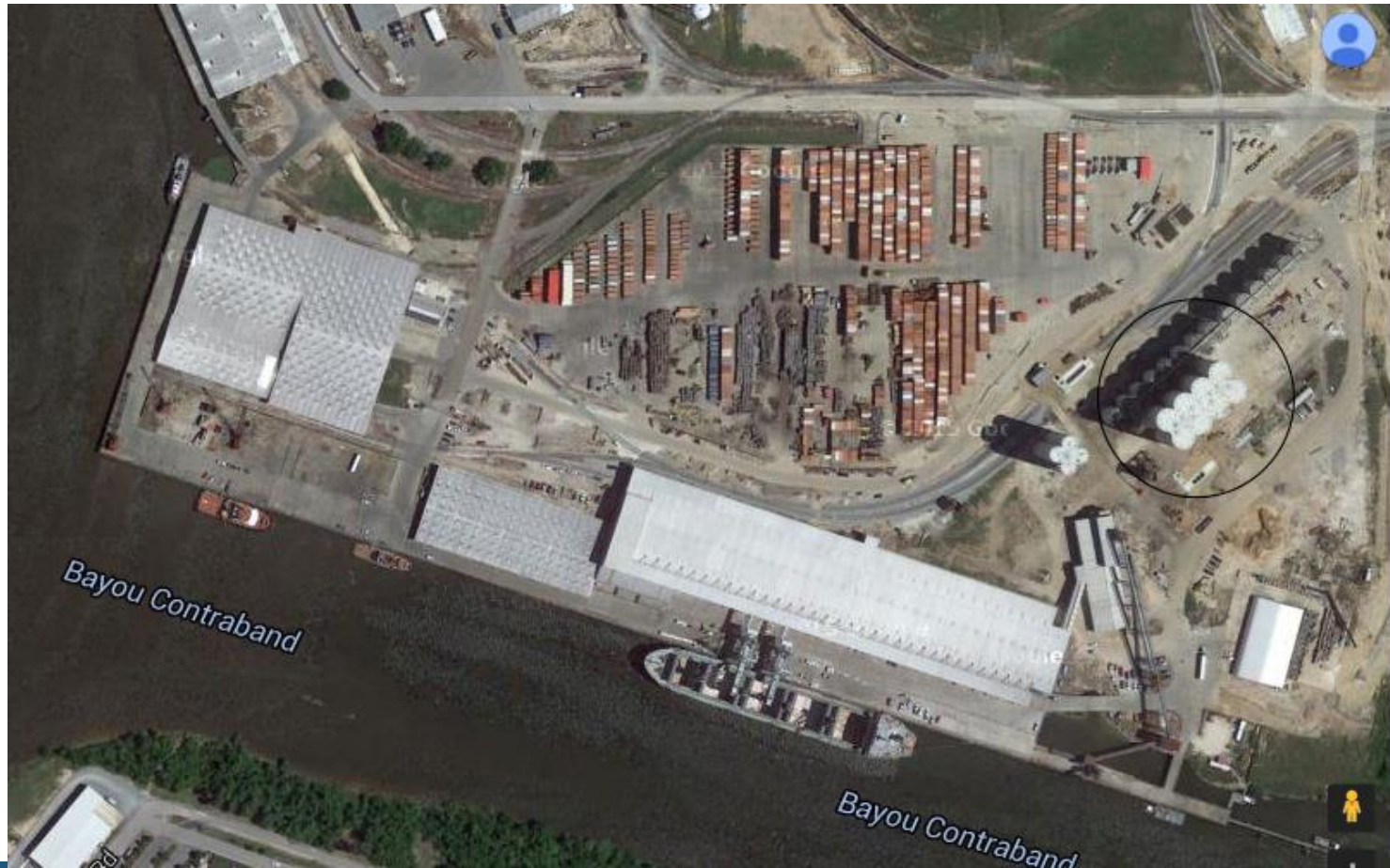


- LCFO performing inspections because incumbent Official Agency was not redesignated.
- FGIS plan to provide direct service in Saginaw & Progreso





# New IFG Port Holdings Elevator, Lake Charles, LA



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Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting, October 2015

# New IFG Port Holdings Elevator, Lake Charles, LA



- New, state of the art facility
- First IFG export elevator in U.S.
- The FGIS Lab is nearly complete.
- IFG has loaded out one small lot of rough rice.
- Next vessel up will also be a small lot of rough rice.
- IFG expects to capability to source grain by rail and load 24/7





# New IFG Elevator – Long Path to the Wharf



# Staffing Initiatives - Building Beyond Program



- 2-year hiring and training program for new ACGs to replace retiring graders and supervisors
- Each trainee has a mentor and is given developmental assignments at different locations.
- The program covers the following areas:
  - GSA, AMA, and Regulations
  - Stowage Examinations
  - Sampling
  - Grading various commodities
  - Weighing
  - Fumigation



# Staffing Initiatives - Building Beyond Program



- Job announcements are placed on USAJobs.gov and go out to over 100 colleges and universities:
  - 1890 Schools
  - American Indian Schools
  - Spanish Language Schools
  - Major Agricultural Universities



# Staffing Initiatives - Building Beyond Program



- The first class was selected in 2011.
- It had 18 trainees, stationed in Toledo, New Orleans, and League City.
- Most have now moved into supervisory ranks.



# Staffing Initiatives - Building Beyond Program



- The second class was selected in 2014.
- This class utilized President Obama's PATHWAYS program for recent college graduates seeking Federal jobs.
- This was the first class to be sent to different field offices to get experience not available at their permanent duty station.



# Staffing Initiatives - Building Beyond Program



- The third class, selected in 2015, had four trainees selected under the PATHWAYS program.
- Mobility clause – new in FGIS
- They will be transferred to a second duty station after 6 months of intensive training at their initial duty station.



# Staffing Initiatives - Building Beyond Program



- The selection process for the fourth class is starting now. FGIS expects January 2016 start date.
- The class will have 10 trainees; 5 stationed at Toledo and 5 at DIOO in KC.
- 6 months of intense inspection training before being reassigned. Goal is to have new employees on board in January.







Thank you!



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